THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) *details of emissaries*

Shri Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, utilised the opportunity provided by his visit to New York in connection with the UN Special Session on Durga, to interact with NRIs, media, NGOs and academics in the United States. He also meet Strobe Talbot, Acting Secretary of State and Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations. Smt. Vasundhara Raje, MOS (EA), visited Hanoi, Manila and Singapore. Smt. Vasundhara Raje held meetings with President Estrada and Foreign Minister Siazon in Manila, Ambassador Tommy Koh and Foreign Minister Jayakumar in Singapore and, held a substantive meeting in Hanoi with Deputy Prime Minister (Foreign Minister) Nguyan Manh Cam. Shri Brajesh Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, visited Paris, London and Moscow. In London, Shri Mishra called on Prime Minister Tony Blair, in Paris he called on President Jacques Chirac and in Moscow he called on Prime Minister Kiriyenko. Shri Nareshwar Dayal, Secretary (MEA) visited Abu dhabi, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain. Shri Dayal held meetings at the senior official level in the capitals he visited.

Outcome of the visit by the Special Envoys

Prime Minister's Special Envoys were received at high levels in all the capitals. While there was an appreciation of the security context India was situated in, there were expressions of concern, particularly from the Western countries, who saw the tests as undermining their attempts at instituting a global non-profileration regime. The visits by Prme Minister's Special Envoys have ensured a greater understanding of India's rationals for undertaking the nuclear tests and presented a valuable opportunity to explain the various initiatives announced by Government in the wake of the tests.

U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service Office at Hyderabad

2504 SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to accord clearance for the establishment of a US and foreign commercial service office at Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, the action taken to accord early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The US Government had requested opening Foreign Commercial Services Offices in some Indian cities including Hyderabad. Decisions in respect of opening such offices in Bangalore, Pune and Ahmedabad have already been conveyed.

Offer of mediatory role by Bangladesh Prime Minister

2505. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh had recently visited our country and held discussions with the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, what are the details of discusison; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Mrs. Hasina has offered to play a mediatory role in Indo-Pak negotiations during the course of her meeting and if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, paid a working visit to New Delhi on 16 June 1998 and